

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SS-15 PER-01 PM-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 FS-01 MMO-01 SCS-06 CA-01 PC-01
EB-08 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
SSO-00 MCT-01 /074 W

-----104354 151351Z /43

O 151304Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9680

INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, CASC

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK: W/W AMCITS AT KOLWEZI

REF: STATE 122725

1. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH LUBUMBASHI PO BORG AND FROM OUR CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES IN KINSHASA OF CIS, PEACE CORPS, AND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, FOLLOWING IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN KOLWEZI.

2. CIS HAS 57 EMPLOYEES AND 9 DEPENDENTS IN KOLWEZI AREA. ALL OF THESE ARE ACCOUNTED FOR EXCEPT TWO EMPLOYEES (ONE WITH A GERMAN WIFE) WHO HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE MAY 13. THEIR SITUATION AND STATUS ARE UNCERTAIN. GENERAL BABIA TOLD CHIEF ZAMISH MAY 15 THAT TWO CIS EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY INVADERS. WHILE THEY MAY BE SAME TWO MENTIONED ABOVE, NEITHER WE NOR CIS HAVE CONFIRMATION OF BABIA'S REPORT. WE ARE SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION. ALL OTHER CIS PERSONNEL ARE NOW LOCATED AT THE CAMP SITE 8 KILOMETERS NW OF KOLWEZI LIVING IN THREE LONG BARRACKS. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, THEY CAN TAKE COVER IN THE BASEMENT OF THE CONCRETE CONVERTER BUILDING, WHICH WILL GIVE THEM COVER FROM

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HORIZONTAL FIRE. ONE CIS EMPLOYEE IS SAFE IN CITY.

3. PEACE CORPS DOES NOT HAVE VOLUNTEERS IN KOLWEZI ITSELF.

4. THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HAS SIX PEOPLE (2 FAMILIES) IN KOLWEZI. THEIR LAST RADIO TRANSMISSION FROM KOLWEZI WAS RECEIVED AT 10:00 A.M. MAY 13. LOCATION AND STATUS OF ALL SIX UNKNOWN.

5. GECAMINES HAS FOUR AMCITS EMPLOYEES AND ONE DEPENDENT AT KOLWEZI. PRESENCE OF GECAMINES EMPLOYEE MARIETTE HAAG, WHO NORMALLY STATIONED KOLWEZI, HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

6. ONE AMERICAN TOURIST, RICHARD BLACK, REPORTED IN KOLWEZI. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HIM.

7. PRESENCE OF CATHOLIC MISSIONARY URBAN MESSERICH, NORMALLY STATIONED KOLWEZI, NOT CONFIRMED.

8. E&E CONSIDERATIONS: CIS IS WORKING ON AN AUXILIARY AIR STRIP AT KOLWEZI. IT IS 1200 METERS LONG, SURFACED WITH 18-INCH THICK LATERITE, AND CAPABLE OF LANDING A LIGHTLY-LADEN DC-3. CIS HAS 2 DC-3'S LOCATED KANANGA, EACH CAPABLE OF CARRYING 22 MAXIMUM LOAD, 20 LOADED FOR A SHORT TRIP; 2 BELL RANGER 206 HELICOPTERS LOCATED AT KANANGA, CAPABLE OF CARRYING FOUR PASSENGERS EACH; AND 1 PIPER AZTEC CAPABLE OF CARRYING THREE PASSENGERS. CIS HAS ENOUGH VEHICLES TO MOVE ALL PERSONNEL AT ONE TIME BY ROAD.

9. AVGAS STATUS: KANANGA HAS SUFFICIENT RESERVE FOR TWO DC-3 TRIPS. KOLWEZI HAS SUFFICIENT FOR TWO DC-3 TRIPS, STORED IN UNDERGROUND TANKS.

10. CIS HAS FOOD RESERVES SUFFICIENT FOR OVER THREE MONTHS. WATER IS SUPPLIED BY THE CITY AND THERE IS NO RESERVE IN STORAGE. THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USE CITY POWER AND ALSO HAVE ONE AUXILIARY GENERATOR.

1. CIS IS DISCUSSING POSSIBLE EVACUATION THEIR PERSONNEL, CONTINGENT ON FEASIBILITY OF PUTTING IN AIRCRAFT AND OBTAINING GOZ PERMISSION.

12. AMBASSADOR HAS ALERTED BOTH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IDZUMBUIR AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU RE POSSIBILITY THAT CIS MAY DECIDE TO EVACUATE ITS PERSONNEL.

13. DETAILS OF CIS PROPOSALS FOR EVACUATION WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

14. BRITISH EMBASSY INFORMED US MAY 15 THEY ARE EVACUATING 10 BRITISH WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM SMTF MINE CAMP AT TENKE FUNGURUME. CUTLER

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